

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925
SP9 Caraja
Cayapo

INDIAN NOTES

000

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY IN THE INTEREST OF THE
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN,
HEYE FOUNDATION



VOLUME II

NEW YORK

1925

[Title Page]

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925

SP9 Caraja SP9

Cayapo SP11

CARAJA AND CAYAPÓ ARTIFACTS FROM BRAZIL

BEAUTIFULLY fashioned feather head-dresses, ingenious and terrible weapons, strange little images, implements and ornaments that characterize the lives and customs of the Caraja and Cayapó Indians, hitherto little known tribes that live in Matto Grosso and Para, the hinterland of Brazil, have been brought to the Museum by the writer, who has spent more than four years in this little-known region of South America.

The Cayapó maidens wear narrow fillets of reed upon which are bound the short, curved feathers from the breasts of parrots, with short quills protruding in front. Some are of red and some of yellow feathers, the latter resembling fluffy halos. Occasionally the Cayapó find feathers of mixed red and yellow, not unlike striped tulips of those colors, and with these the women make fillets of exquisite beauty (fig. 95). Others are made by binding a number of short pieces of polished bamboo to a reed, topping them with iridescent feathers, and adding a long gray-white

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925

SP9 Caraja SP

Cayapo SP

INDIAN NOTES

C
301
237
C
292
237
[221]

plume from the South American ostrich (fig. 96). One especially striking piece of headgear is a Cayapó cap fashioned of a network of pliable grass, vaguely reminiscent of a woman's hairnet (fig. 97). It has a shock of small yellow quills fastened to the center of the crown and surrounded

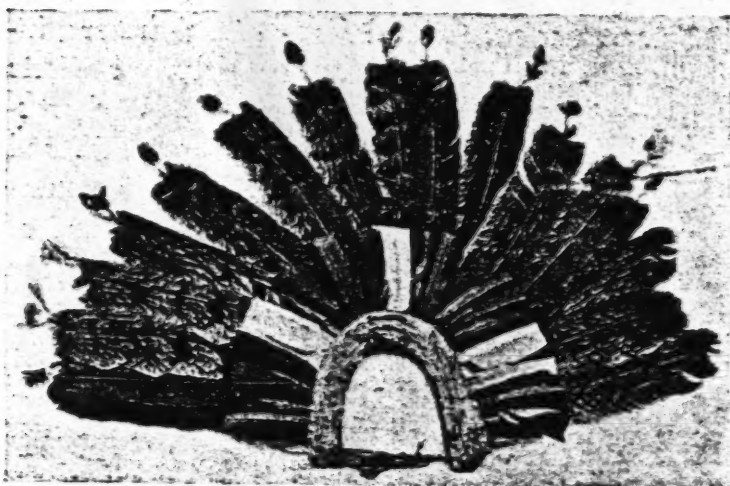


FIG. 95.—Cayapó head-dress

by several rows of small red feathers grouped together to form flowers, with small knots of grass for centers.

C
411

C
[237]

Picturesque and very effective are the seven- and eight-foot spears with which the Caraja go on the warpath (fig. 98). The spear-heads are made of the thigh-bone of the jaguar, and pointed;

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925
SP9 Caraja
Cayapo SP11

INDIAN NOTES

222
223
224
225

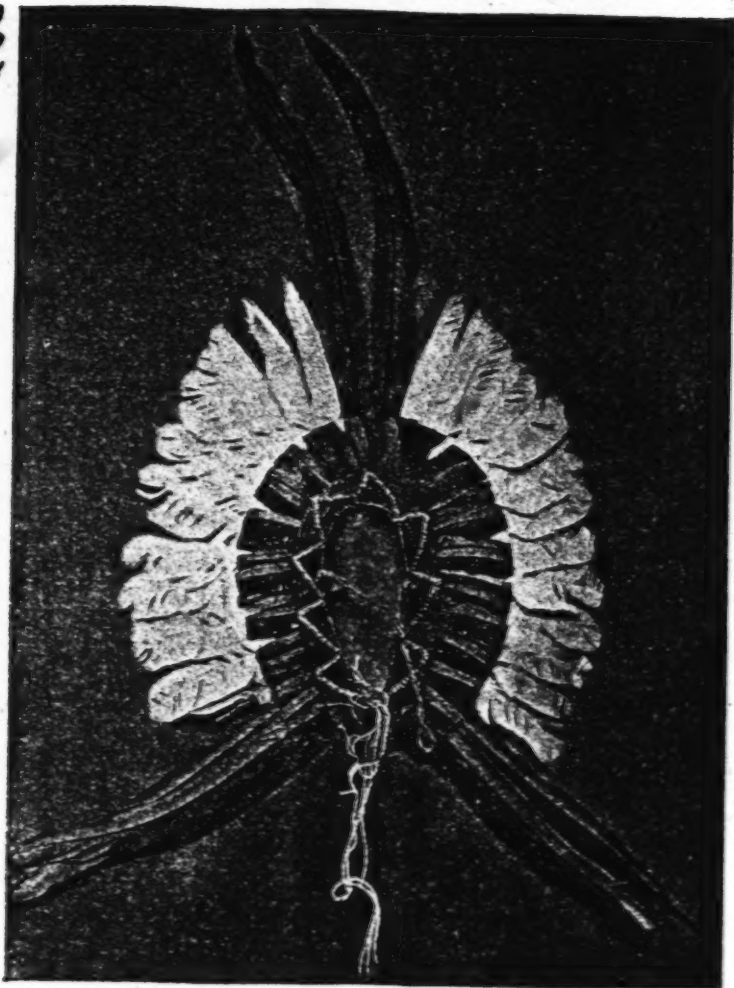


FIG. 96.—Cayapó head-dress

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925

SP9 Caraja SP9

Cayapo SP11

INDIAN NOTES

C
411
237
C
411
531
a cluster of feathers hanging below the point guides the spear unerringly when flung at its victim. The spear-shafts are beautifully decorated with a covering of black and white cane-

work woven in intricate designs. No two of these woven handles are of the same pattern, but they all represent the various markings of snakes.

The bow and arrow are a favorite weapon with both the Cayapó and the Caraja. The bows, six feet long, are stoutly made of palm-wood, and are strung with the strong hand-spun cord of wild cotton,

FIG. 97.—Cayapó head-dress

with the ends cunningly wrapped to the bow so that the string can be lengthened or mended according to the hunter's needs. Arrows are of wide variety and are used for many purposes, but all of them have long bamboo shafts

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925

SP9 Caraja SP9

Cayapo SP11

INDIAN NOTES

C
CO
411
237
264
283
skillfully feathered
at the end. The
arrowheads are
fastened to eight-
een-inch foreshafts

C
264
531
411
501
→
of hard-wood
tipped with bone,
fitted in three- to
four-foot bamboo
shafts and bound
in place with the
strong cord that
the native women
spin from wild cot-

C
CO
314
is firmly cemented
with a kind of

C
CO
411
224
223
resin. Long needle-like arrows
tipped with hard-
wood are for
shooting birds;
the sharp bamboo
tips curved hol-
lowly are for deer
and jaguars, for
they permit the
wounded animal

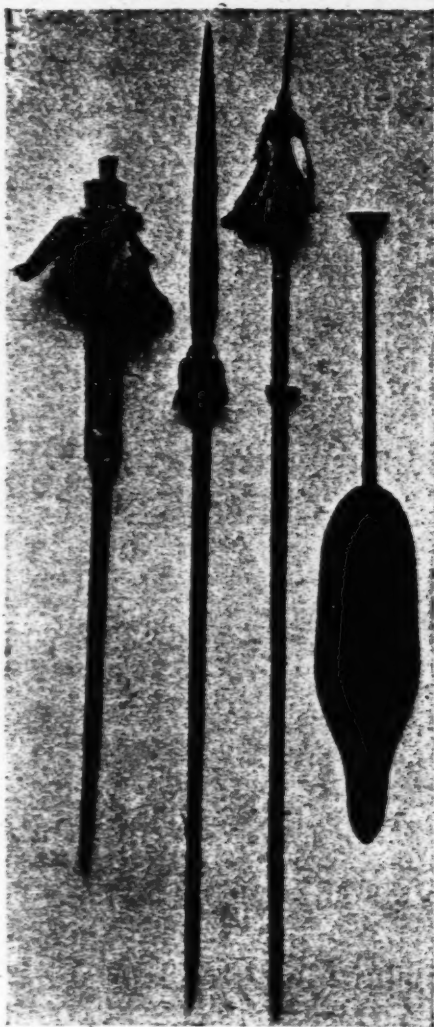


FIG. 98.—Caraja objects (grave-post, two spears, and a paddle)

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925

SP9 Caraja^{SP9}

Cayapo^{SP11}

INDIAN NOTES

C
Co
411
224
[224]
[237]

to bleed freely in order that it will weaken before it can travel far. Barbed arrows are used for killing monkeys and shooting fish. The tail of the sting-ray is also used for tipping arrows.

C
411
[222]
[602]
[228]

Co
[534]
[531]
←



C
[531]

FIG. 99.—Cayapó rattle

Formidable objects are the clubs that the Caraja tribesmen use to kill captives, as well as members of their own tribe who have broken taboo or who are too old to make the periodic migrations. These clubs vaguely resemble a baseball bat, except that they are heavier and a trifle thicker at the end. They are made of hard-wood, the long handle decorated with a beautiful covering of black and white woven canework in designs similar to those of the spears,

C
[384]

and the heavy end is stained a sinister red with the juice of the urucú-berry and the blood of its victim.

Co
411

The Cayapó clubs are of the same heavy wood,

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925

SP9 Caraja SP9

Cayapo SP11

INDIAN NOTES

^C
411
[53] and have similar woven cane-covered handles, but are for more specialized use. Instead of a blunt round end, the club has a flat triangular wooden blade pointed at the end with sharp sides and stained with urucú. It is used, in the manner of a great ax, for decapitation.

^C
524
[50] Toy canoes (fig. 100), with which the Caraja youngsters play, are models in miniature of those their elders use, which are made from hollowed or

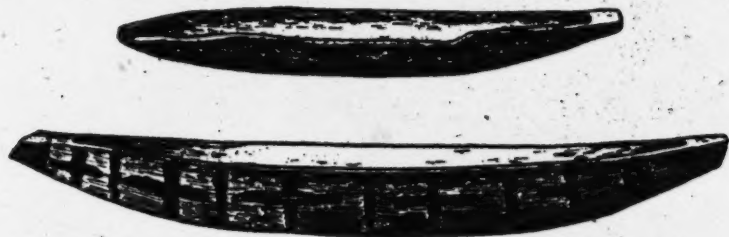


FIG. 100.—Toy canoes of the Caraja. (Length, 19 in. and 26 in.)

^C
[53]
[37] burnt-out logs. They are decorated with designs colored with a black stain from the genepapa fruit and the urucú. Paddles (fig. 98) are of regulation length, but some have unusually wide blades often decorated in red and black designs.

^C
532 Most curious of the collection are the little clay dolls (fig. 101), which may have some connection with magic or with religious observances. They vary in size from two to twelve
^C
[17] inches, and are similar in workmanship and even

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925

SP9 Caraja SP9

Cayapo

INDIAN NOTES

532 in spirit to little clay images from excavations
171 in Crete and Asia Minor. They are male and
532 female figures, the latter made with exaggerated
hips and lower limbs. Though the little faces

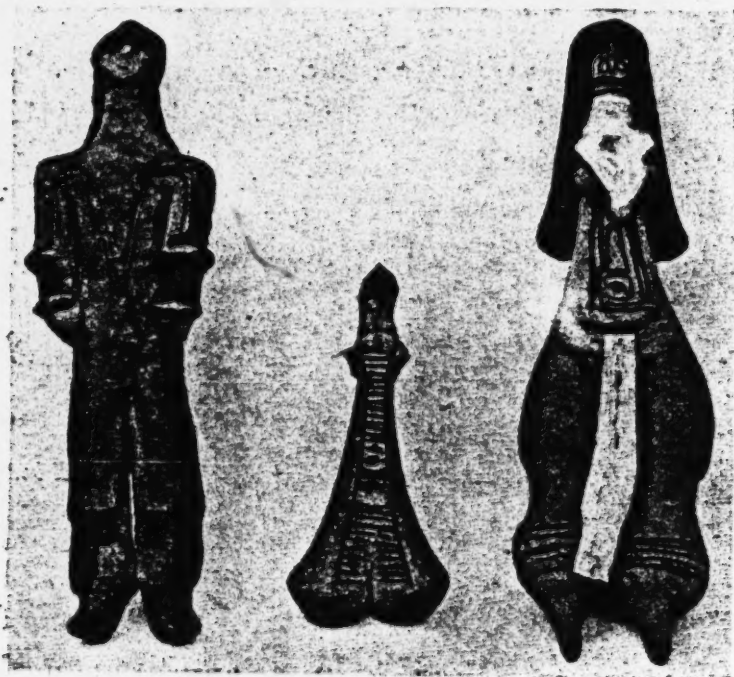


FIG. 101.—Caraja images

of the figures are crudely modeled, the head-dress
and the manner of wearing the hair are faith-
[17]fully reproduced. In some instances the hair-
dressing is identical in style with that of the little
images found in the Old World.
[226]

9:Gow-Smith T-5 (no date) 1925

SP9 Caraja ^{SP9}

Cayapo

INDIAN NOTES

images found in the Old World. Though the ⁵³²
little figures are usually nude, occasionally one
is adorned with bits of red-colored home-made ^[P. 227]
cotton twine.

FRANCIS GOW-SMITH